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Cuts of Appeal

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

WASHINGTON BUREAU
SUITE 410 · WOODWARD BUILDING
733 15th STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

(202) 638-2269

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

November 4, 1976

AH

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As I watched your face from a close up on television when you were speaking in Grand Rapids on Monday night, I saw the quality of sincerity and fundamental decency that you have in such abundance. This was further impressed on my memory when you made your concession statement on Wednesday. As I am sure you and the members of your family know, what I have said in these opening lines reflects the opinions of thousands and possibly millions of our fellow Americans.

As I viewed the trend of the party primaries, the happenings at both conventions and the progress of the campaign, it seemed to me that there was very little difference between you and your opponent on the broad goals of our country. It is my opinion that the difference lies in the philosophies of the Republican and Democratic parties. There are many people who are well off, better situated and more enlightened than ever before in our history. However, there are many others, perhaps greater in number, who see that the good life which is possible is not shared by enough of our citizens. Some of these may be well off themselves but wish earnestly to aid those who are among the have nots. Others are frustrated by the lack of opportunity, insecurity, even though they may be employed, or frustrated by the fact that they are caught in what appear to be alleys from which there is no escape. I believe that is what caused the election to go the way it went.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM

WASHINGTON BUREAU
SUITE 410 - WOODWARD BUILDING
173 15th STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002

1976 NOV 6 PM 3 26

(202) 638-2269

THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN
November 4, 1976

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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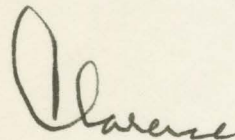


Honorable Gerald R. Ford
Page 2
November 4, 1976

As you know, I have some strong and fundamental differences with some of your points of view, especially on the question of pupil transportation, but this has not diminished my respect and feeling of warmth towards you as a person. As I think about what could have flowed from a contest of the New York returns, I am grateful that you did not do anything to promote the idea of a court challenge. That kind of contest would have had tremendous possibilities for tearing the Nation apart and possibly would have caused wounds that would be long in healing. Instead, you took the high road of accepting the apparent outcome with dignity and lofty statesmanship. I wish you a meaningful and satisfying future.

As I noted on television, there was a mat in Grand Rapids welcoming the Thirty-eighth President of the United States. Nothing will ever change the fact of history that you entered the office at a time when the Nation was in great travail and you left it with the respect and, in many instances, the affection of your supporters and many of your opponents as well.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clarence".

Clarence Mitchell
Director
Washington Bureau

Honorable Gerald R. Ford

Page 2

November 4, 1976

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Clarence Mitchell
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